



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
2000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20350-2000

OPNAVINST 3541.2C
N96
13 May 2019

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 3541.2C

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: SHIPBOARD DAMAGE CONTROL AND FIRE PROTECTION INITIATIVES

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 9070.1B

1. Purpose. To issue policy and assign responsibility for implementing shipboard damage control and fire protection initiatives. This revision incorporates the assignment of U.S. Fleet Forces Command executive agent for damage control, per Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) ltr 3541 Ser N00/100080 of 5 December 2012. This instruction is a complete revision and should be reviewed in its entirety.
2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST 3541.2B.
3. Applicability. This policy applies to all surface afloat commands.
4. Background. This comprehensive effort addresses essential ship survivability measures to enhance Navy's mission capability and operational effectiveness posture.
5. Policy. All afloat commands will ensure the implementation of damage control and fire protection initiatives designed to maintain the highest level of operational readiness and warfighting sustainability throughout the fleet. Damage control and fire protection concepts will be developed and engineered into all surface ship platforms; shipboard interface systems; and associated equipment, materials, procedures, training, and supplies, per reference (a). For new ship classes, damage control and fire protection considerations will begin in the concept formulation phase and will be maintained throughout the life of the platform. Overhaul and modernization programs will employ the most rigorous and affordable application of damage control and fire protection improvements on a priority basis following established surface ship survivability requirements.
6. Responsibilities
 - a. Director, Surface Warfare (OPNAV N96) will:
 - (1) formulate policy, and resource validated, operationally relevant, and affordable damage control and fire protection initiatives requirements consistent with the damage control and fire protection goal.
 - (2) ensure programming to support the damage control and fire protection objectives.

(3) issue directives to ensure implementation and funding across all warfare and platform sponsors and fleet commands, including the need to address damage control and fire protection considerations in requirements documents.

b. Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command. Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command is the designated executive agent for implementing Navy damage control and fire protection initiatives, and will:

(1) oversee recommended changes to doctrine, training, and equipment resulting from command or safety investigations.

(2) ensure needed damage control improvements that are identified through other means are included in requirements processes.

(3) establish and serve as the head of a senior advisory group to the CNO on damage control matters.

(4) develop a process for integrated fleet and type commander review and adjudication of Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command (COMNAVSEASYSCOM) responses to Class “A” mishap recommendations.

c. COMNAVSEASYSCOM will:

(1) provide comprehensive technical management, direction, coordination, oversight, assessment, and focus for Navy damage control and fire protection initiatives to ensure state-of-the-art awareness, transfer of technology, responsive test and evaluation capability, and implementation of cost effective improvements. These functions will include, but not be limited to:

(a) Coordinate with the technical and fiscal programs developed by other commands to ensure the damage control and fire protection goal is achieved.

(b) Review and recommend prioritization of all damage control and fire protection initiatives to ensure the greatest return for Navy’s investment.

(c) Evaluate industrial independent research and development funding to support Navy damage control and fire protection needs.

(d) Ensure damage control and fire protection technology transfer among all fleet commands.

(e) Provide damage control and fire protection documentation as required.

(f) Develop appropriate methodologies and perform passive fire protection assessments of platform design features including arrangements, fire loading, fire resistance, smoke and toxicity, ventilation, materials, fire insulation, and fire zones for application into new design characteristics and top level requirements.

(g) Determine the desirability, feasibility, benefits, and costs associated with implementing and developing passive fire protection improvements, including, but not limited to, the reduction of fire hazard associated with:

1. clothing and fabrics.
2. paints and coatings.
3. power and signal cables.
4. outfitting, furnishing, and habitability materials.
5. thermal and acoustic insulation.
6. packaging material.
7. hydraulic working fluids.
8. fiber reinforced plastics and wood.
9. plastics, foams, and adhesives.
10. passive countermeasures system materials.
11. fuels (ship, aviation, auxiliary).
12. lithium batteries and associated equipment.

(h) Determine the hazards and apply hazard reduction techniques to systems and equipment brought aboard for shipboard or mission use, including, but not limited to:

1. Aircraft (manned and unmanned).
2. Vehicles (manned and unmanned).
3. Ammunition and explosives.
4. Energy storage devices including lithium batteries.

(2) establish and validate damage control and fire protection procedures matched to actual and anticipated operational threats.

(3) per acquisition reform initiatives, ensure all applicable specifications, standards, manuals, and other directives are updated and or developed as necessary to reflect damage control and fire protection performance requirements.

(4) develop and implement initial certification requirements for damage control and fire protection systems and equipment. Develop and implement a periodic recertification process and criteria for maintaining certification.

5. Records Management

a. Records created as a result of this instruction, regardless of format or media, must be maintained and dispositioned per the records disposition schedules located on the Department of the Navy/Assistant for Administration (DON/AA), Directives and Records Management Division (DRMD) portal page at

<https://portal.secnav.navy.mil/orgs/DUSNM/DONAA/DRM/Records-and-Information-Management/Approved%20Record%20Schedules/Forms/AllItems.aspx>.

b. For questions concerning the management of records related to this instruction or the records disposition schedules, please contact the local records manager or the DON/AA DRMD program office.

6. Review and Effective Date. Per OPNAVINST 5215.17A, OPNAV N96 will review this instruction annually around the anniversary of its issuance date to ensure applicability, currency, and consistency with Federal, Department of Defense, Secretary of the Navy, and Navy policy and statutory authority using OPNAV 5215/40 Review of Instruction. This instruction will be in effect for 10 years, unless revised or cancelled in the interim, and will be reissued by the 10-year anniversary date if it is still required, unless it meets one of the exceptions in OPNAVINST 5215.17A, paragraph 9. Otherwise, if the instruction is no longer required, it will be processed for cancellation as soon as the need for cancellation is known following the guidance in OPNAV Manual 5215.1 of May 2016.



R. A. BOXALL
Director, Surface Warfare

Releasability and distribution:

This notice is cleared for public release and is available electronically only via the Department of the Navy Issuances Web site, <https://www.secnav.navy.mil/doni/default.aspx>.